

To: R10 Mining[R10_Mining@epa.gov]
From: Edmond, Lorraine
Sent: Mon 5/13/2013 8:15:51 PM
Subject: FYI: new report on water treatment in perpetuity from mines (and a potentially useful compilation)

<http://www.earthworksaction.org/files/publications/PollutingTheFuture-FINAL.pdf>

This is a new (May 2013) report by Earthworks. It's a policy piece, not a scientific report, but worth a look. Were any of you interviewed for this?

They estimated annual costs of water treatment at all the known (not proposed) mines in the report to be \$57-67 billion. (It's a narrower range than I would have thought they'd be able to derive.) Red Dog, Grouse Creek, Thompson Creek, Blackbird, Upper CdA, Bunker Hill, Holden, Midnite, Monte Cristo are the R10 mines I noticed on the summary table in the "known" category. Also the Almeda mine, in Oregon, which I'd never heard of. The "likely" category included Sunshine, Formosa, and Blue Ledge (hadn't heard of that one, either). Proposed included Donlin and Pebble.

Check out the graphic showing the water bottles stacking to the moon and back, though. 54 "trips to the moon and back" is the way they put it. (I think I would have just shown 108 stacks, but they didn't ask me...)

Other fun facts:

62% of the mines summarized are located at least in part, on public lands

New Mexico and Michigan effectively prohibit mines that will require perpetual management, and Wisconsin prohibits mining sulfide rock until a U.S. or Canadian mine in acid-generating rock has been operated and closed for 10 years without causing "pollution of groundwater or surface water from acid . . . or the release of heavy metals."